



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Pittsburgh District

February 2004

SUPPLEMENT TO PHASE I ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT (ESA)
REPORT –NORTH PARK LAKE, SECTION 206
AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

WILDWOOD SITE

McCANDLESS TOWNSHIP, ALLEGHENY COUNTY

PENNSYLVANIA

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction	Page 1
2. Background	Page 1
3. Site Reconnaissance	Page 2
4. Summary	Page 3
5. Conclusions	Page 3

Figure A

Wildwood Approximate Site Boundary Map

Appendices

Appendix A – Enviromapper Investigation

Appendix B - Site Reconnaissance Photographs

Appendix C – QA/QC Documentation

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1. Introduction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) Report for North Park Lake in November 2002. At that time, the report investigated areas surrounding North Park Lake. As the project design progressed, the need for an additional placement site arose. Several sites were considered, however, the Wildwood Site, adjacent to North Park, is being considered as a possible site to place the proposed dredged material from North Park Lake. The Wildwood Site is located just East of South Ridge Drive, North Park. This report is a supplement to the Phase I Site Assessment for North Park Lake, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration.

The USACE policy requires an environmental site clearance prior to any Real Estate transactions or construction work. The purpose of this ESA is to identify any potential environmental concerns, and to document the findings for purposes of environmental site clearance for real property transactions. The intent is to demonstrate “due diligence” in conducting “all appropriate inquiry” in order to provide a basis for a legal defense under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Comprehensive and Liability Act (CERCLA). In addition, the potential environmental contamination information can be used by the contractor to develop plans for worker safety and health considerations.

2. Background

Mr. Vincent P. Rutledge currently owns the Wildwood Site property, he acquired this site in the mid 1990s, and the adjacent site in 1986. Deeds were traced back to 1928 when Butler Consolidated Coal Company either acquired or already owned the property. Butler Consolidated Coal Company sold the property to Wildwood in 1973.

A mid January telephone call to the current mine inspector for this site, Dave Thomas at the Greensburg Mining office 724-925-5500, resulted in obtaining the following information:

The ACV power company acquired a surface mining permit in August of 1994 (Permit No. 02940201 for 42.5 acres). The activities included gathering the onsite coal refuse and transporting it to the Scrub Grass Power Plant, located near the intersection of interstate 80 and interstate 79. The resulting burned product, net alkaline fly ash, was transported back to the Wildwood site for distribution over the site. By 1998 the fly ash disposal was complete and ACV Power Company has since gone out of business. The mining office is currently in the process of encouraging the Bond company to release the forfeited bonds. The PADEP Mining office said that no USACE, Pittsburgh District placement activities can proceed until the bond money is released.

The attached figure A is a topographic map of the general area and the approximate Wildwood site boundary is shown in red.

The EPA EnviroMapper website was consulted to determine if any potentially contaminating facilities were located within a mile of the proposed disposal site. Three sites were plotted, two are Sanitary Authority facilities and one is a RCRA Large Quantity Generator. All three facilities are separated from the Wildwood site by Pine Creek, a natural divide. The EnviroMapper data is included as Appendix A.

3. Site Reconnaissance

Nancy Taylor (Environmental Specialist) and Michael Debes (Civil/Environmental Engineer) of the Pittsburgh District Office performed a site reconnaissance and walkover of the Wildwood site on 4 December 2003. They were accompanied by Gerald Barczyk who had knowledge of the project and the proposed activities planned for the site.

The site investigation began from South Ridge Drive, in North Park, and the group proceeded on foot over trails to the Wildwood site. The site is located just to the east of the park. Photographs #1 and #2 (located in Appendix B) shows the trail that was used to get to the site. Along the trail, photograph #3 was taken to show the central section of the site as viewed from the entrance trail. The site contains coal debris covered by topsoil and vegetation, except in one section of the site shown in Photograph #4. At this portion of the site, a dark spot can be seen (exposed coal debris).

The site reconnaissance continued to the southwestern end of the site, adjacent to woods. In this area, debris was observed and photographed as shown in Photograph #5. A distinctive feature was observed at the southwestern portion of the Wildwood site, along a side slope that proceeded to Pine Creek. Two openings in the ground, resembling holes in the roof of an underground cavity, were seen and water was observed flowing from each opening. Photograph #6 shows one of the openings, and the water is shown in Photograph #7. A refractive sheen was observed on the water that overflowed from the ground openings (Photograph #8). Also in this area, a non-functioning, detached weir was observed downstream of the water flow, as seen in Photograph #9.

The site walk proceeded along the southern perimeter of the site.

Photograph #10 was taken to capture a view of Pine Creek and a railroad bridge crossing the creek.

The Reconnaissance team continued further along the perimeter, two, empty, stormwater basins were investigated. The first basin is located in a low area of the site, along the southern edge. Two photographs were taken of this basin. The first, Photograph #11, shows a detailed, west facing view of the basins' sidewall; while Photograph #12 is a view showing the sidewalls and bottom of the basin. Photographs #13 and #14 shows the other basin used for stormwater control. This basin is situated at the northeastern corner of the site, near a proposed, north haul road for the project work.

From the northeastern stormwater basin, the site reconnaissance continued along the northern edge of the site. Photographs #15, #16, and #17 were taken to show the conditions of the sideslope. The site walk concluded after walking the perimeter of the Wildwood site, at the northcentral edge of the property. The photographs taken on the site walk are included as Appendix B.

4. Summary

The environmental Unit was tasked to provide a supplement to the previously written Phase I ESA for the North Park Lake Ecosystem Restoration Project. This supplement is intended to document findings at a proposed placement site for dredged material from the lake. The Wildwood site was investigated through site visit, discussions with PADEP Mining personnel, Deed Search and Photo-documentation. Coal mining and coal related activities appear to have affected the site since 1928 or before.

The site reconnaissance consisted of a walk over the entire site, photographing observed site features of environmental interest.

5. Conclusions

Based on the results of the site walk, there are no major sources of potential contamination, which might affect the use of the Wildwood area. Overall, visual inspection of the project area did not reveal any features of concern. There is no obvious evidence of significant contamination on or around the proposed project areas resulting from hazardous waste. There is no evidence to suggest a significant probability of incurring CERCLA liability due to property acquisitions or worker safety concerns in the project area due to environmental contamination.

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FIGURE A

Approximate Boundary Map of Wildwood Site

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APPENDIX A

EnviroMapper Investigation

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APPENDIX B

Site Reconnaissance Photographs

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APPENDIX C

QA/QC Documentation

